

Ministry of Justice

Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan

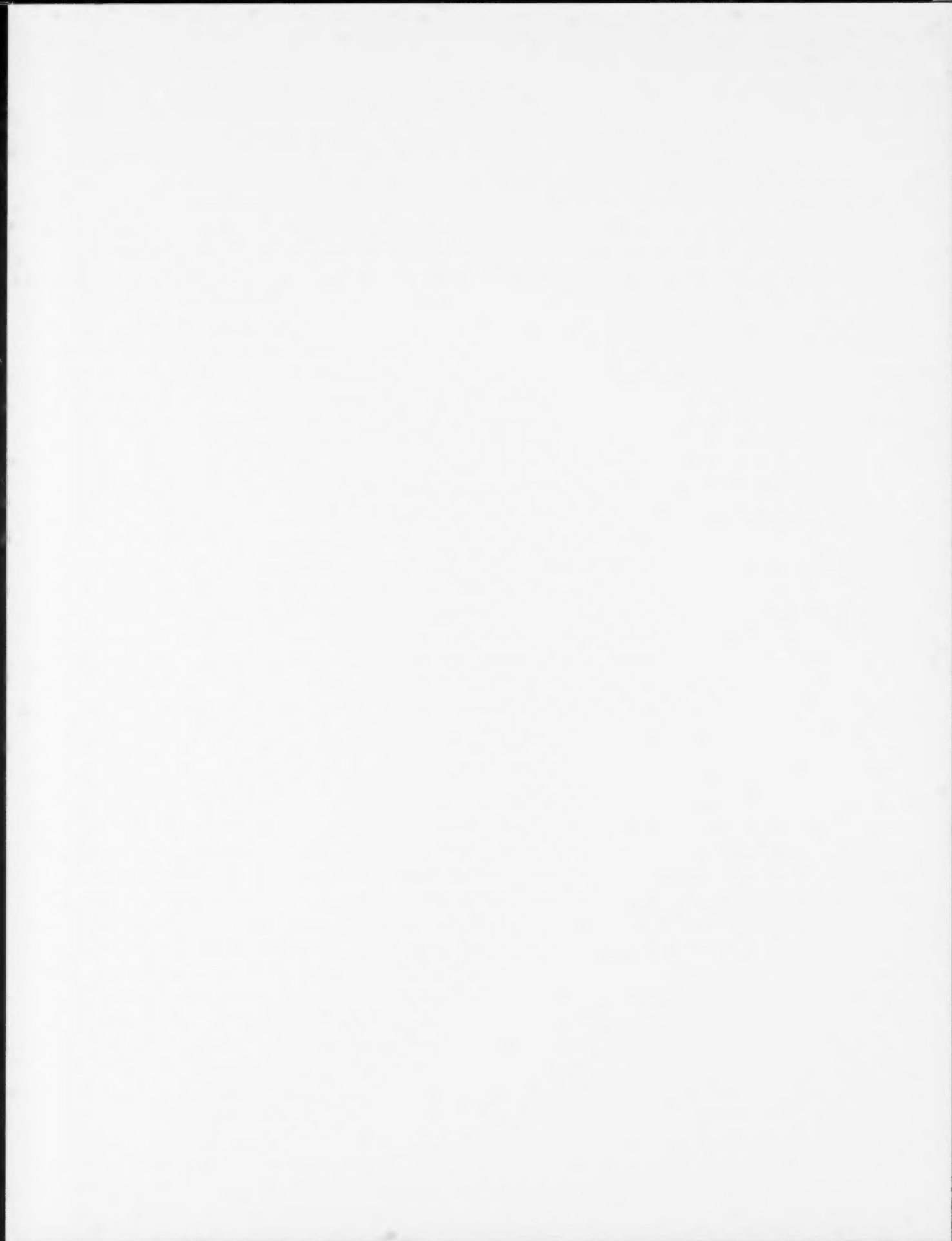


Annual Report for 2013-14

Table of Contents

Letters of Transmittal	1
About the Commission.....	2
Objectives	2
Commissioners.....	2
Contact Information.....	2
Previous Members of the Commission	3
Financial Information.....	3
Research Program and Activities	4
Consideration of Current Law Reform Issues	4
Implementation of Recent Projects	4
Citation of Commission Reports by the Courts.....	4
Research Program 2013-14.....	5
Completed Projects	5
Ongoing Work of the Commission.....	5
Management's Responsibility for Financial Statements	6
Financial Statements.....	7

This annual report is also available in electronic form from the Ministry's website at www.justice.gov.sk.ca.



Letters of Transmittal



Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield,
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Gordon S. Wyant, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General



The Honourable Gordon S. Wyant, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Dear Sir:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Layh' with a stylized flourish.

The Honourable Donald H. Layh
Chair

About the Commission

Objectives

The Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan (the Commission) was established by *An Act to Establish a Law Reform Commission*, proclaimed in force in November 1973. The Commission began functioning in February 1974.

The Law Reform Commission Act provides that:

The Commission shall take and keep under review all the law of the province, including statute law, common law and judicial decisions, with a view to its systematic development and reform, including the codification, elimination of anomalies, repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments, reduction in the number of separate enactments and generally the simplification and modernization of the law.

Topics for the Commission's research program are brought before meetings of the Commission for consideration. These topics may originate from a recommendation of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (the Minister), the Commission and its staff, the judiciary, the legal profession, other professional organizations, or the public. Once the research study in a particular project is completed, the matter is placed before the Commission for discussion and consideration. The Commission may decide to issue background papers or tentative proposals for circulation to the public in order to obtain criticism and comment prior to the preparation of a final report. Consultations may entail public meetings, hearings, and workshops. The Commission's recommendations are embodied in its final report to the Minister.

The Commission works closely with the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) in formulating research projects and facilitating adoption of its proposals. The Commission has also made an ongoing contribution on behalf of the province to the national work of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada (ULCC). Commissioners and the Director of Research have served as members of the ULCC for many years.

The Commission is a member of the Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada.

Commissioners

- The Honourable Donald H. Layh, Chair
Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan
- Ms. Susan Amrud, Q.C.
Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice
- Professor Ronald C. Cuming, Q.C.
(Chair 1978-82)
*College of Law
University of Saskatchewan*
- The Honourable Georgina R. Jackson
Justice of the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan
- Professor Michaela Keet
*College of Law
University of Saskatchewan*
- Mr. Michael Milani, Q.C.
Practising Lawyer

Contact Information

The Commission may be contacted at:
Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan
University of Saskatchewan
Room 184, College of Law
15 Campus Drive
SASKATOON SK S7N 5A6

Telephone: (306) 966-1625

Fax: (306) 966-5900

E-mail: director.research@sasklawreform.com

Previous Members of the Commission

- Professor Brian A. Grosman, Q.C.
(Chair 1974-78)
- Professor Ronald C. Cuming, Q.C.
(Chair 1978-82)
Active member of the Commission
- Dr. D.A. Schmeiser, Q.C.
(Chair 1982-87)
- Mr. Dale Linn, Q.C.
(Chair 1987-92)
- Mr. Kenneth P.R. Hodges, Q.C.
(Chair 1992-2000; Member 2000-2012)
- Ms. Merrilee Rasmussen, Q.C.
(Chair 2000-08)
- Ms. Kathleen Robertson
(Chair 2008-09)
- The Honourable E.D. Bayda, Q.C.
(1974-76)
Former Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan
- Mr. George J.D. Taylor, Q.C.
(1974-82)
- The Honourable Marjorie A. Gerwing
(1976-92)
Former Justice of the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan
- Mr. Gordon J. Kuski, Q.C.
(1982-92)
- The Honourable Gene Anne Smith
(1992-98)
Former Justice of the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan
- Ms. Gailmarie Anderson
(1992-2001)
- The Honourable Dianne Morris
(1992-02)
Former Judge of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan
- Mr. Douglas Moen, Q.C.
(2000-02)
- Mr. Alan McIntyre
(2000-08)
- The Honourable Robert D. Laing
(2003-06)
Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan
- Ms. Sarah Buhler
(2003-08)
- Ms. Carole Lavallee
(2003-09)
- Ms. Susan Bates
(2003-09)

Financial Information

The Law Reform Commission is financed by annual grants from the Government of Saskatchewan and the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan. In the 2013-14 fiscal year, the Commission received a grant of \$60,000 from the Government of Saskatchewan (through the Ministry) and a grant of \$60,000 from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan.

Commissioners, other than the judicial and provincial government representatives, receive honoraria from the Commission based on the Order in Council by which they are appointed. The Chair receives \$235 per day when engaged in Commission work. Commissioners receive \$155 per day. The Director of Research provides services at the rate of \$94,200 per annum.

Research Program and Activities

Consideration of Current Law Reform Issues

Community and stakeholder involvement in the consultation process is vital in raising awareness of legal issues and law reform throughout Saskatchewan and Canada. Interested and engaged individuals and groups mean better input into the process of legal reform, resulting in more effective and appropriate recommendations by the Commission.

The Commission's work is directed to legal reform in the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan. The consultation process engages the public and stakeholders in the Commission's work, thereby educating them on the current and proposed state of the law. The Commission's work is driven by research. Local experts in many fields of practice may be engaged. Libraries across the country are richer for having publications by the Commission as part of their in-house materials. Law students have access to these papers through the library system and online, encouraging the use and maintenance of Saskatchewan's legal knowledge base.

In addition to legislative reforms that might be suggested by the Minister or by legal groups, the Commission seeks the contribution and input of all citizens of the province. The Commission follows current legal issues and encourages calls from the public.

Implementation of Recent Projects

The Commission has worked closely with the Ministry by reviewing several significant pieces of legislation in recent years, including *The Powers of Attorney Act*, *The Limitations Act*, *The Evidence Act*, and amendments to *The Administration of Estates Act*. The Commission also assisted the Ministry with the finalization of *The Trustee Act, 2009* that is based on its 2002 report, *Proposals for Reform of the Trustee Act* and its 1987 report, *Proposals Relating to the Rules Against Perpetuities and Accumulations*. The new Act came into force on January 1, 2010.

Most recently, amendments to *The Land Titles Act, 2000* that came into force on March 5, 2012 implement recommendations made in the Final Report on Private Title Insurance issued jointly by the Commission and the Manitoba Law Reform Commission.

Specific provisions respecting reverse mortgages were included in *The Mortgage Brokerages and Mortgage Administrators Regulations* that came into force on October 1, 2010, based on the recommendations in the Commission's 2006 Report on Reverse Mortgages. This close collaboration continues respecting the reform of residential foreclosure law, as the Commission is currently reviewing *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act* at the Minister's request.

In 2009, the Commission issued a consultation paper on administrative penalties; the Final Report was issued in 2012. These reports included a discussion of the use of administrative penalties in Saskatchewan, the issues of process and fairness they raise, and suggested ways in which fairness might be ensured. *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2010* and *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* both incorporated the tentative recommendations made by the Commission. All Acts passed by the Saskatchewan Legislature since that time that include provisions respecting administrative penalties have adopted the recommendations in the Final Report.

Citation of Commission Reports by the Courts

Reports issued by the Commission continue to influence courts across the country in the determination of common law and statutory interpretation. A mark of success for the Commission is the number of times its reports and other publications have been referred to in judicial decisions of Saskatchewan courts and elsewhere in Canada and the Commonwealth. The Commission's work has been referred to 12 times in the past decade in courts across Canada, including two Supreme Court of Canada decisions, the most recent of which is the 2013 decision *Quebec (Attorney General) v A*.

Research Program 2013-14

Completed Projects

Civil Rights in Saskatchewan Long-term Care Facilities:

The Final Report was issued in May 2013. The focus of this project is violations of the rights of long-term care residents, particularly when they do not involve physical abuse, and particularly when they may not be effectively addressed by existing protocols designed to deal with more blatant forms of abuse. A consultation paper was distributed in August 2010. Minimal response was received, and the paper was "re-released" at the beginning of 2012. The response to the "re-release" was improved and included meetings with stakeholders. Responses to the Consultation Paper highlighted that long-term care staff, residents, and resident families and supporters may be unfamiliar with rights in long-term care, including how to assert these rights and seek remedy when they are breached. The Final Report sets out the Commission's proposals to improve civil rights in long-term care facilities, including a residents' bill of rights and mandatory reporting of abuse by staff and operators.

Access to Justice - Needy Person Certificates and Waiver of Fees:

The Final Report was issued in May 2013. This project was undertaken at the request of Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan and Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC). A consultation paper was released and distributed in January 2012. As the costs of litigation and other legal services rise, concern about financial barriers to access to justice is increasing. Under *The Queen's Bench Rules*, a potential litigant may, in some circumstances, obtain a waiver of court fees by obtaining a Needy Person Certificate. Needy Person Certificates are useful, but challenges exist respecting their scope and availability under *The Queen's Bench Rules*. A further challenge is that certificates are only available to litigants in the Court of Queen's Bench and Court of Appeal. Individual rights are also adjudicated in the Small Claims Court and by boards and tribunals, which have varying policies regarding fee waivers. Responses to the Consultation Paper generally affirm that Needy Person Certificates and fee waivers in Saskatchewan need to be updated and expanded. The Final Report sets out the Commission's proposals on improving access to justice for the less advantaged members of our community through fee waivers, including a consistent fee waiver application policy and process across all Saskatchewan courts and tribunals, that is available to all litigants, including self-represented litigants.

Crown Immunity: The Final Report was issued in December 2013. The doctrine of Crown immunity provides that a statute does not bind the Crown unless the statute expressly so states or it is otherwise clear from the enactment that the legislature intended the Crown to be bound. The Consultation Paper was released and distributed in October

2012 to limited response. No objections were raised to the prospect of reform and no arguments in favour of presumptive immunity for the Crown were made. However, Crown counsel raised concerns about the possible practical consequences of complete reversal of the doctrine. The Crown requires unique powers and immunities in order to govern. However, critics have pointed out for over 50 years that the doctrine of Crown immunity is broader than necessary. Academics, judges and law reformers who have considered the doctrine argue that it is outdated and unprincipled, creating uncertainty in the law. In the Final Report, the Commission draws a distinction between legislation currently in force and future enactments. With respect to legislation currently in force, the Commission recommends that immunity be considered whenever substantial changes are made to a statute. The Commission recommends that, for future enactments, each new statute specifically address whether the Crown is bound, and to what extent.

Ongoing Work of the Commission

Mortgages & Foreclosures: The Commission received a referral from the Minister to review and recommend changes to Saskatchewan's laws related to residential foreclosure and, in particular, the provisions of *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act*. The Consultation Paper on reform of the Act was released and distributed in March 2013. The paper considers the content and history of the Act, reviews the mortgage remedies available in other Canadian common law provinces, reviews the recommendations respecting mortgage remedies made by other Canadian law reform agencies, presents the need for reform of the Act, and offers possible approaches to reform the Act. Consultation responses were received through mid-November 2013. An internal consultation summary was prepared in late November 2013, resulting in a decision that further research and consultation were necessary to better represent borrowers' interests in reform. The Final Report will be released in the 2014-15 fiscal year. On completion of *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act* project, the Commission expects to complete a study, to be titled "Mortgage Law in Saskatchewan: From Charge to Remedies," with the stated objective to create a comprehensive statement of mortgage law in Saskatchewan.

Commercial Tenancies: This is a joint project with the ULCC. The Commission presented a project proposal at the ULCC's August 2011 meeting, which was accepted. A working group chaired by the Commission's Director of Research, with representation from several provinces, met by conference call seven times this fiscal year. The working group's task is to modernize and harmonize commercial tenancies law in Canada with a view to

creating a comprehensive framework of statute law that will make it easier to do business in Canada, resulting in direct benefits to Canadians and the economy as a whole. A second progress report was presented at the August 2013 ULCC meeting. Several research memos were prepared to guide the group's discussion and decision-making. For each of these memos, the Commission staff researched the law and commentary across Canada and presented the research results in a concise, digestible manner. The working group's decisions were based on the information and recommendations found in the memos. The project is a multi-year undertaking involving extensive consultation with the working group. The final result is expected to be a *Uniform Commercial Tenancies Act*.

Reform of The Intestate Succession Act, 1996: This project was initiated by suggestion of the Public Guardian and Trustee and a Saskatchewan lawyer. The Commission has undertaken a review of the Act in its entirety, including the issues that they raised. Every Saskatchewan resident could be affected by the law of intestacy so the Act should be current, comprehensive, and complete. The Consultation Paper continues to be researched and drafted, and is expected to consider several issues, including:

- a surviving spouse's preferential share where issue of the intestate are also issue of the surviving spouse;
- systems of intestate distribution: degree of kinship (current) vs. parentelic system (adopted in British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba); and,
- rights of posthumously conceived children on intestacy.

The Commission expects to release the Consultation Paper in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Electronic copies of all Commission publications are available on the Commission's website, at lawreformcommission.sk.ca.

Management's Responsibility for Financial Statements

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the integrity of the financial information reported by the Commission. Fulfilling this responsibility requires the preparation and presentation of financial statements and other financial information in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. These standards are consistently applied, with any exceptions specifically described in the financial statements.

The accounting systems used by the Commission include an appropriate system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that:

- transactions are authorized;
- the Commission's assets are properly kept and financial reports are properly monitored to ensure reliable information is provided for preparation of financial statements and other information; and
- the accounts are properly kept and financial reports are properly monitored to ensure reliable information is provided for preparation of financial statements and other financial information.

To ensure management meets its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control, the members of the Commission discuss audit and reporting matters with representatives of management regularly. The members of the Commission have also reviewed the financial statements with representatives of management.

The Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan has audited the Commission's financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards.

The Provincial Auditor has audited the Commission's statement of financial position as of March 31, 2014, and the related statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended.

The Provincial Auditor's responsibility is to express an opinion on the fairness of management's financial statements. The Auditor's Report outlines the scope of the audit and the Provincial Auditor's opinion.

PROVINCIAL AUDITOR
of Saskatchewan

July 28, 2014

The Honourable G. Wyant, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Room 355, Legislative Building
REGINA, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Sir:

**Re: Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan
Financial Statements**

We enclose the financial statements of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan for the year ended March 31, 2014 and our report on these financial statements.

Yours truly,



Judy Ferguson, FCA
Acting Provincial Auditor

/mk

Attachment

cc: The Honourable K. Krawetz, Chair, Treasury Board
Ms C. Isman, Secretary, Treasury Board
Mr. T. Paton, Provincial Comptroller, Ministry of Finance (email)
Mr. K. Fenwick, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General, Ministry of Justice
Mr. D. Layh, Chair, Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan
Mr. D. Tulloch, Executive Director, Corporate Services Branch, Ministry of Justice
Mr. N. Bonokoski, Director, Assurance and Financial Reporting, Ministry of Justice

LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF SASKATCHEWAN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended March 31, 2014

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: The Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2014, and the statement of operations, changes in net financial assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards for Treasury Board's approval, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan as at March 31, 2014, and the results of its operations, changes in net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.



Regina, Saskatchewan
July 24, 2014

Judy Ferguson, FCA
Acting Provincial Auditor

LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF SASKATCHEWAN
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 As at March 31

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Financial Assets		
Cash	\$ 39,091	\$ 55,648
Short-term investments (Note 4)	102,282	101,274
Accounts receivable	<u>722</u>	<u>950</u>
Total Financial Assets	<u>142,095</u>	<u>157,872</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<u>10,111</u>	<u>4,316</u>
Net Financial Assets - Statement 3	131,984	153,556
Non-financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	<u>2,427</u>	<u>2,384</u>
Accumulated surplus - Statement 2	<u>\$ 134,411</u>	<u>\$ 155,940</u>
Commitments (Note 7)		

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF SASKATCHEWAN
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
For the Year Ended March 31

	Budget (Note 8)	2014	2013
Revenue			
Ministry of Justice - grant	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Law Foundation - grant (Note 6)	60,000	60,000	60,000
Interest and miscellaneous	<u>500</u>	<u>887</u>	<u>988</u>
Total revenue	<u>120,500</u>	<u>120,887</u>	<u>120,988</u>
Expenses			
Salaries and employee benefits	102,630	97,803	59,416
Worker's compensation board premium	-	46	163
Contract labour	30,400	21,777	39,175
Conference and travel	8,700	8,235	7,700
Commissioner's honoraria	4,000	235	310
Office supplies and services	5,700	667	1,073
Online Research	-	1,232	1,196
Marketing	1,500	-	1,189
Professional fees	-	3,000	1,477
Office rent	5,200	4,225	4,083
Miscellaneous	2,000	1,625	4,311
Website design and admin	<u>-</u>	<u>3,571</u>	<u>3,306</u>
Total expenses	<u>160,130</u>	<u>142,416</u>	<u>123,399</u>
Deficit for the year	<u>\$ (39,630)</u>	(21,529)	(2,411)
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year		<u>155,940</u>	<u>158,351</u>
Accumulated surplus, end of year		<u>\$ 134,411</u>	<u>\$ 155,940</u>

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement 3

LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF SASKATCHEWAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS
For the Year Ended March 31

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Deficit for the year	\$ (21,529)	\$ (2,411)
Addition to prepaid expense	<u>(43)</u>	<u>(322)</u>
Decrease in net financial assets	(21,572)	(2,733)
Net financial assets, beginning of year	<u>153,556</u>	<u>156,289</u>
Net financial assets, end of year	<u>\$ 131,984</u>	<u>\$ 153,556</u>

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF SASKATCHEWAN
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year Ended March 31

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Cash used in operating activities		
Ministry of Justice - grant	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Law Foundation - grant	60,000	46,334
Interest and miscellaneous revenue	1,115	186
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(136,663)</u>	<u>(119,506)</u>
Cash used in operating activities	<u>(15,548)</u>	<u>(12,986)</u>
Cash used in investing activities		
Purchase of short-term investments	(102,283)	(101,274)
Proceeds from disposal and redemption of investments	<u>101,274</u>	<u>101,274</u>
Cash used in investing activities	<u>(1,009)</u>	<u>-</u>
Decrease in cash	(16,557)	(12,986)
Cash, beginning of year	<u>55,648</u>	<u>68,634</u>
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 39,091</u>	<u>\$ 55,648</u>

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

**LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF SASKATCHEWAN
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
March 31, 2014**

1. Incorporation

The *Law Reform Commission Act* was amended effective November 6, 1987. At that date the Commission became a body corporate and continued the operation of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan.

The purpose of the Commission is to review all the laws of the Province with a view to its systematic development and reform and generally the simplification and modernization of the law.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

Pursuant to standards established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of CPA Canada, the Commission is classified as an other government organization. Accordingly, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting (PSA) standards, as published by CPA Canada.

a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

b) Revenue Recognition

The Commission recognizes contributions as revenue when received and receivable.

The Law Foundation grant is intended to cover half of the Commission's current year expenses. Any unused amount of the grant is returnable to the Law Foundation at year end.

c) Financial Instruments

Classification

Cash and short-term investments are classified in the fair value category. Accounts receivable, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are carried at amortized cost. Due to their short-term nature, the amortized cost of these instruments approximate their fair value. Carrying amounts are in each instance disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position.

Significant terms and conditions

There are no significant terms and conditions related to the financial instruments that may affect the amount, timing and certainty of future cash flows.

Interest rate risk

The Commission is exposed to interest rate risk when the value of its financial instruments fluctuates due to changes in market interest rates.

The Commission does not have any long-term investments that may be affected by market pressures.

The Commission's receivables and payables are non-interest bearing.

Credit risk

The Commission is exposed to credit risk from potential non-payment of accounts receivable or investment income and principal.

The Commission rarely has accounts receivable. Most of the Commission's receivables are from provincial agencies, federal government and commission members; therefore credit risk is minimal.

All investments are purchased from and held with major banks; therefore, credit risk for investments and related accrued interest receivables is minimal.

d) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the period in which they become known.

e) Remeasurement gains and losses

The Commission has no transactions that would result in remeasurement gains and losses therefore no statement of remeasurement gains and losses has been prepared.

3. Designated Assets

The Commission has designated assets to finance future research projects and initiatives at the discretion of the Commission. These designated assets are not available for other purposes without approval of the Commission.

<u>Research Projects and Initiatives</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Beginning of Year	\$ 89,700	\$ 100,744
Expenditures	(16,354)	(11,044)
End of Year	<u>\$ 73,346</u>	<u>\$ 89,700</u>

4. Short-term investments

Short-term investments consist of a guaranteed income certificate with an effective interest rate of 0.8% (2013 - 1.0%).

5. Related Party Transactions

Included in these financial statements are transactions with various Saskatchewan Crown corporations, ministries, agencies, boards and commissions related to the Commission by virtue of common control by the Government of Saskatchewan and non-Crown agencies subject to joint control and significant influence by the Government of Saskatchewan (collectively referred to as related parties).

Routine operating transactions with related parties are recorded at agreed upon exchange amounts and settled under normal trade terms.

Other related party transactions at year-end are as follows:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Revenues		
Ministry of Justice	60,000	60,000
Expenses		
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board	46	163
Saskatchewan Queen's Printer	112	929
University of Saskatchewan	4,667	4,611

In addition, the Commission pays Provincial Sales Tax to the Ministry of Finance on all its taxable purchases. Taxes paid are recorded as a part of the cost of those purchases.

6. Law Foundation Grant

The Commission received a grant in 2013-14 from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan for \$60,000 (2012-13 - \$60,000). None of this grant is returnable as the grant covers less than half of the Commission's 2013-14 expenses (see note 2b).

7. Commitments

The Commission has entered into an agreement to lease office space from the University of Saskatchewan. The lease is for a period of 1 year, expiring on February 28, 2015. The future minimum lease payment is as follows:

2014-15	\$3,366
---------	---------

8. Budget

The Commission approved the 2013-14 budget on January 15, 2013.

